



DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND  
601 THIRTEENTH STREET, NW, SUITE 200 SOUTH  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

March 25, 2011

Dear CDFI Partner,

Last week I shared with you news that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is now accepting applications from Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to participate in their new Community Advantage program. The opening of SBA's flagship 7(a) lending program to CDFI loan funds provides many of you with an important new tool to enable you to lend to even more small businesses and entrepreneurs in the low-income communities you serve. I sincerely encourage you to explore this new program.

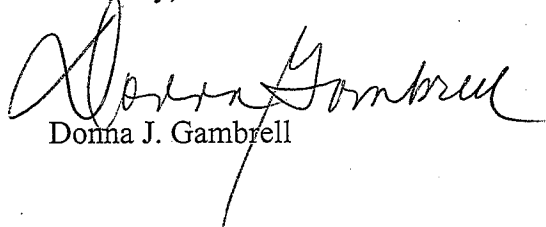
Our partners at the SBA have been very busy over the last few months implementing the Small Business Jobs Act. In addition to introducing the Community Advantage program, they have doubled the size of their traditional loans and supported over \$12 billion in lending. Now, the SBA wants your help.

Beginning March 28 through April 15, SBA's leadership—including Associate Administrator Steve Smits, Deputy Associate Administrator John Hale, and leaders of other SBA program offices—will be traveling coast to coast, from Miami to Seattle, to meet with lenders, CDFIs, and small businesses to listen to your feedback.

SBA knows its new Community Advantage program will help you provide small businesses with the capital they need to grow and create jobs. But SBA also knows that it can do more. Steve, John, and their team want to talk to you about what SBA can do to help you support small businesses. They want your insights on how to better serve lending partners, including CDFIs, how to simplify and streamline the program, and how to target critical gaps, including small-dollar loans.

I hope you will consider participating in one of these sessions to learn more about the Community Advantage program and engage in dialogue with our SBA colleagues. Further details and instruction on how to register for a session can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/jobsacttour>.

Sincerely,



Donna J. Gambrell